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7 May 2013

Mrs Catherine Hanch
Headteacher
Settrington All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
Settrington
Malton
North Yorkshire
YO17 8NB

Dear Mrs Hanch

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Settrington All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire

Following my visit to your school on 29 April 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, other senior leaders, the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school development plan was evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

Main Findings

The headteacher and governors are determined to improve the school. Governors have acted swiftly to establish a rapid improvement group. They are supporting the headteacher in making changes to school practice. For example, they have reduced the headteacher's teaching commitment and agreed changes to the deployment of staff for September. These actions are enabling the headteacher and senior staff to keep a closer check on the quality of teaching. Subject leaders have begun to make detailed plans to support the development of mathematics and literacy. The headteacher recognises that this is a first step and has identified a need to extend this to other subjects to drive school improvement.

A programme of staff training is beginning to introduce changes to the teaching of early reading and mathematics. Leaders report that this is helping to raise teachers' expectations of the most able pupils, particularly in mathematics. School monitoring is focused on how teachers are developing their practice. Although this shows that there is less teacher talk it does not explain the difference that this additional time is now making to pupils' learning or the quality of marking and feedback they receive. The school's new monitoring programme indicates that subject leaders are due to follow-up these aspects in the coming weeks.

School development plans include all the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection. The headteacher and governors are currently working with the school's local authority adviser to sharpen the plan, particularly the timescale which does not extend beyond the summer term, and the intended impact of actions on pupils' learning and achievement. Governors are starting to develop their practice in checking and evaluating the school's work and a planned programme of training is to begin in a few days.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

HMI and the school discussed and agreed that the school will attend an Ofsted seminar later this term.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The school has begun to draw upon the local cluster of schools to identify good and outstanding Early Years Foundation Stage practice. This work is at a very early stage. The guidance of the local authority adviser has assisted the headteacher and subject leaders in developing improvement planning. Further work to refine and extend this, together with training support for governors and advice from a specialist mathematics consultant, is part of an agreed plan.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for North Yorkshire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Gina White

Her Majesty's Inspector